

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2626

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1999

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RO XF

SUBJECT: GOR PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR'S COMMENTS ON CEAUSESCU'S

TRIP TO SYRIA AND EGYPT

REF: BUCHAREST 1958

1. GOR PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR MALITA, WHO ACCOMPANIED CEAUSESCU TO DAMASCU AND CAIRO ON LATE APRIL SUDDEN VISITS, GAVE AMBASSADOR HIS IMPRESSIONS ON ME MAY 8. (CEAUSESCU HAS ALSO MADE USE OF MALITA AS HIS SPECIAL EMISSARY TO ARABS SINCE YOM KIPPUR WAR.)

2. MALITA PUT LATEST VISITS IN CONTEXT OF GOR'S CONVICTION THAT LATING PEAVE IN MIDDLE EAST REQUIRED TAKING ADVANTAGE
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OF WHATEVER FAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES MIGHT BE PRESENT

AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT. HE DENIED THAT THERE WAS ANY SPECIFICALLY URGENT REASON THAT PROMPTED TRIP, THOUGH HE DID EXPRESS CONCERN THAT ANOTHER EXPLOSION IN MIDDLE EAST OR AEGEAN WOULD INVOLVE ROMANIA BY RAISING PROBLEMS OF "TRANSPORT" OR "LINES" (IMPLYING SOVIET PRESSURE FOR SUPPLY ROUTES AND/OR MILITARY COOPERATION). COMMUNIQUE HAD REFLECTED THIS BY NOTING EUROPE'S PROXIMITY TO AND COMMONALITY WITH MIDDLE EAST.

3. GOR SENSED THAT MOST ELEMENTS FOR A POLITICAL (I.E. PEACEFUL) ME SOLUTION NOW EXIST BUT THEY ARE NOT BEING PUT TOGETHER ANYWHERE. GOR THUS FELT OBLIGATED TO KEEP ACTIVE, AS USUAL, AS A VITALLY INTERESTED STATE WHICH REMAINS ON CLOSE TERMS WITH ALL ME PARTIES PARTICULARLY KEY GROUP, PALESTINIANS. GIVEN RELATIVELY MODERATE PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP, GOR FELT IT COULD NOT STAND FATALISTICALLY ON SIDELINES BUT HAD TO KEEP UP CONTACTS, LET CURRENT RELATIVELY PROMISING SITUATION SLIP AWAY FOR GOOD. GOR ALSO DID NOT WANT TO SEE SOVIETS AS ONLY INTERESTED OUTSIDE PARTY TALKING TO PALESTINIANS. IDEA FOR CEAUSESCU'S VISIT HAD COME UP ONLY DURING HIS SWING THROUGH PAKISTAN, JORDAN AND TUNISIA AND HE HAD WISHED TO GET IT IN BEFORE HEAVY MAY AND JUNE SCHEDULE IMPINGED. ESSENTIALLY THE VISIT SHOULD BE SEEN AS PART OF CONTINUING DIALOGUE. ALTHOUGH GOR WOULD LIKE TO BE INVITED TO GENEVA, ALL "OTHER PATHS" (PRESUMABLY SUCH AS KISSINGER'S EFFORTS OR CEAUSESCU'S) SHOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED.

4. MALITA DESCRIBED ARAFAT AS RELATIVELY MODERATE, WITH WHOM SOLUTION COULD BE REALIZED, UNLIKE WITH PLO'S MORE RADICAL FIREBRANDS. HE ALSO FELT ASSAD HAD GOT BAD PRESS AND WAS MUCH MORE FLEXIBLE THAN USUALLY PORTRAYED. IN MALITA'S NUMEROUS TALKS WITH SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS HE PURPORTED TO SEE AT LEAST SOME DILUTION OF INTRANSIGENCE: E.G. GOR-SYRIAN COMMUNIQUE'S INCLUSION OF FORMULA TO "JUST" ME PEACE CONFORMING WITH "UN CHARTER AND PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW" (THIS ROMANIAN FORMULA HE THOUGHT COVERED CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF UN MEMBER ISRAEL AND ROMANIANS' POINT THAT INTEGRITY OF "ALL STATES" IN REGION SHOULD BE ASSURED); OR SYRIAN AGREEMENT TO IDEA OF PALESTINE STATE AFTER FORMERLY HAVING DEMANDED "RETURN

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OF ARAB TERRITORY". HOWEVER, NEXT MAJOR MOVE HAD TO BE ISRAEL'S TO BREAK DEADLOCK, IN PARTICULAR AS REGARDS PALESTINIANS.

5. MALITA REJECTED TERM "MEDIATION" TO DESCRIBE GOR'S ROLE IN ME SITUATION, SINCE GOR HAD NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS OR PLAN OF ITS OWN, BUT INDICATED GOR EXCHANGES WITH ALL PARTIES AT HIGH LEVEL, AND ITS CONSTANT ADVISING OF NEED TO KEEP

TO PEACEFUL, POLITICAL PATH, MIGHT HELP CONTRIBUTE TO
EVENTUAL SOLUTION.
BARNES

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